

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A vehicle headlamp system as claimed in claim 6 [[1]], wherein said variable luminous intensity control means fixes said luminous intensity distribution when the speed of the first vehicle stays at said predetermined value or lower.
3. (Currently amended) A vehicle headlamp system as claimed in claim 6 [[1]], wherein said luminous intensity distribution is a luminous intensity distribution having a cut-off line at an upper end, and wherein said variable luminous intensity control means varies said luminous intensity distribution by vertically moving the position of said cut-off line.
4. (Original) A vehicle headlamp system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said variable luminous intensity control means fixes said cut-off line at a lowermost position while the speed of the first vehicle is kept at said predetermined value or lower.
5. (Canceled) A vehicle headlamp system as claimed in claim 1, wherein headlamps are provided on the left and right sides of a vehicle, thus forming a pair of headlamps and wherein said

vehicle-to-vehicle distance measuring means is contained in the lamp body of a first of the headlamps.

6. (Currently amended) ~~A vehicle headlamp system as claimed in claim 5,~~

A vehicle headlamp system with headlamps, each of which contains a lamp unit within a lamp body for emitting beams forward with a predetermined luminous intensity distribution, comprising:

vehicle-to-vehicle distance measuring means for measuring the vehicle-to-vehicle distance between a first vehicle and a second preceding vehicle, and

variable luminous intensity control means for varying said luminous intensity distribution according to said vehicle-to-vehicle distance when the speed of the first vehicle exceeds a predetermined value,

wherein headlamps are provided on the left and right sides of a vehicle, thus forming a pair of headlamps and wherein said vehicle-to-vehicle distance measuring means is contained in the lamp body of a first of the headlamps, and

wherein a second of the headlamps includes an auxiliary lamp in a position that corresponds to the position of the vehicle-to-vehicle distance measuring means in the lamp body of the first headlamp.

7. (Original) A vehicle headlamp system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the second headlamp is located on the road shoulder side, and the auxiliary lamp irradiates the road shoulder portion of a road surface ahead of a vehicle.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 [[8]] further comprising stabilizing the luminous intensity distribution when the speed of the first vehicle remains at or below the predetermined value.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 [[8]] wherein the luminous intensity distribution is varied by moving the position of a cut-off line.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the luminous intensity distribution is fixed at a lowermost position when the speed of the first vehicle is kept at the predetermined value or lower.
12. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 8 further comprising~~
A method for operating a vehicle headlamp system comprising:
measuring the distance between a first vehicle and a second preceding vehicle with a
distance measuring means associated with a headlamp of the first vehicle;
varying a luminous intensity distribution of each headlamp of the headlamp system
according to the distance between the first and second vehicles when the speed of the first vehicle
exceeds a predetermined value; and
illuminating a shoulder of a road with an auxiliary lamp associated with a second headlamp of the headlamp system.